

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing automatic re-provisioning of an appliance server comprising:
 - responsive to a user activation, removing a first application from a first partition of said partitioned hard-drive;
 - dynamically loading a second application into said first partition; and
 - automatically re-configuring said appliance server to operate said second application.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said removing step includes:
 - creating an image file of said first application along with an associated operating system and network parameters;
 - assigning a unique identifier to said image file; and
 - storing said image file of said first application.
3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
 - creating a parameter file of said network parameters including a system ID and IP address; and
 - storing said parameter file of network parameters.
4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said appliance server is connected to a network and said removing step removes said image file of said first application to a storage location on said network

1 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said loading step first downloads said second
2 application as an image file from a storage location on said network..

1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said appliance server comprises a partitioned
2 hard-drive having at least a system partition, a network operating system (NOS
3 partition, and an images partition, wherein said first partition is said NOS partition
4 and said second partition is said images partition, said method further comprising:

5 first setting said systems partition to un-hidden;

6 responsive to a completion of said setting step, re-booting said server
7 appliance utilizing a system's operating system(OS) contained in said system's
8 partition;

9 automatically installing said second application into said NOS partition;

10 responsive to a completion of said installing step, setting said systems
11 partition back to hidden; and

12 rebooting said server appliance utilizing NOS.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising restoring said network parameters
2 to said appliance server following said second rebooting step to enable said appliance
3 server to operate via its correct network settings.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said hard drive includes a float partition,
2 wherein, responsive to a determination that said NOS partition is not sufficiently large
3 to hold said second application, said method includes expanding said NOS partition
4 into a drive space of said float partition.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein, responsive to a determination that said

1 10. A computer program product comprising:
2 a computer readable medium; and
3 program code on said computer readable medium that enables automatic re-
4 provisioning of an appliance server, said program code comprising code for:
5 responsive to a user activation, removing a first application from a first
6 partition of said partitioned hard-drive;
7 dynamically loading a second application into said first partition; and
8 automatically re-configuring said appliance server to operate said second
9 application.

1 11. The computer program product of Claim 10, wherein said removing program
2 code includes code for:
3 creating an image file of said first application along with an associated
4 operating system and network parameters;
5 assigning a unique identifier to said image file; and
6 storing said image file of said first application.

1 12. The computer program product of Claim 11, further comprising program code
2 for:
3 creating a parameter file of said network parameters including a system ID
4 and IP address; and
5 storing said parameter file of network parameters.

1 13. The computer program product of Claim 12, wherein said appliance server is
2 connected to a network and said removing program code removes said image file of
3 said first application to a storage location on said network via file transfer protocol
4 (FTP).

1 14. The computer program product of Claim 13, wherein said loading program
2 code first downloads said second application as an image file from a storage location
3 on said network.

1 15. The computer program code of Claim 14, wherein said appliance server
2 comprises a partitioned hard-drive having at least a system partition, a network
3 operating system (NOS partition, and an images partition, wherein said first partition
4 is said NOS partition and said second partition is said images partition, said program
5 code further comprising code for:

6 first setting said systems partition to un-hidden;

7 responsive to a completion of said setting step, re-booting said server
8 appliance utilizing a system's operating system(OS) contained in said system's
9 partition;

10 automatically installing said second application into said NOS partition;

11 responsive to a completion of said installing step, setting said systems
12 partition back to hidden; and

13 rebooting said server appliance utilizing NOS.

1 16. The computer program product of Claim 15, further comprising code for
2 restoring said network parameters to said appliance server following said second
3 rebooting step to enable said appliance server to operate via its correct network
4 settings.

1 17. The computer program product of Claim 16, wherein said hard drive includes
2 a float partition, wherein, responsive to a determination that said NOS partition is not
3 sufficiently large to hold said second application, said program code includes code for
4 expanding said NOS partition into a drive space of said float partition.

1 18. The computer program product of Claim 17, wherein, responsive to a
2 determination that said images partition is not sufficiently large to hold said image
3 file of said second application, said program code includes code for expanding said
4 images partition into a drive space of said float partition.

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- 1 19. An appliance server comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a hard disk that is partitioned into at least three partitions;
4 an operating system stored on a first one of said partitions;
5 an application program stored on a second one of said partitions and executed
6 by said processor;
7 a re-provisioning utility executed by said processor that, when activated,
8 dynamically installs a second application program on said second partition and re-
9 configures said appliance server to support said second application program.
- 1 20. The appliance server of Claim 19, wherein further said re-provisioning utility
2 automatically removes said application program from said second one of said
3 partitions prior to installing said second application.
- 1 21. The appliance server of Claim 20, wherein said re-provisioning utility
2 comprises program code for creating an image file from said application program,
3 applying a stored image file corresponding to said second application on to said first
4 partition, and subsequent to applying said stored image file, restoring factory network
5 settings for said appliance server.
- 1 22. The appliance server of Claim 21, wherein first partition is a network
2 operating system (NOS) partition, said second partition is an images partition,
3 wherein:
4 said hard drive further comprises a system partition; and
5 said re-provisioning utility includes program code for selectively setting said
6 system partition to hidden and un-hidden to allow a re-configuration of said appliance
7 server.

1 23. The appliance server of Claim 22, wherein said re-provisioning utility
2 includes program code to reboot said appliance server during said re-provisioning
3 operation.

1 24. The appliance server of Claim 23, further comprising network connectivity
2 that connects said appliance server to a network and allows transfer of image files to
3 and from said network.

1 25. A network comprising:
2 network accessible storage locations;
3 file transfer protocol backbone; and
4 an appliance server that comprises
5 a hard disk that is partitioned into at least three partitions;
6 an operating system stored on a first one of said partitions;
7 an application program stored on a second one of said partitions and
8 executed by said processor; and
9 a re-provisioning utility that, when activated, dynamically installs a
10 second application program on said second partition and re-configures said
11 appliance server to support said second application program.

1 26. The network of Claim 25, wherein further said re-provisioning utility
2 automatically removes said application program from said second one of said
3 partitions prior to installing said second application.

1 27. The network of Claim 26, wherein said re-provisioning utility comprises:
2 program code for creating an image file from said application program,
3 applying a stored image file corresponding to said second application on to said first

